

Teamwork

NEWS

June 2005



A NEWSLETTER FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Companies receive TOSHA safety awards

In June three Tennessee companies received recognition for their outstanding records in workplace safety: Frito-Lay Distribution Center in Chattanooga and ITW Dynatec in Hendersonville each earned the prestigious Volunteer STAR (Safety Through Accountability and Recognition) award, and Firestone Industrial Products (FSIP) received the Governor's Award of Excellence for Workplace Safety and Health.

"All these companies have demonstrated support of our department's mission to save lives, prevent injuries, and protect the health of Tennessee workers," said Commissioner Neeley. "The awards program is an important part of our resolve to prevent accidents and promote safety."



Frito Lay workers celebrate seven years without an injury.



Commissioner Neeley presents the Volunteer Star Award to ITW Dynatec, noting that the company's total case incident Rate (TCIR) is 62 percent below the industry average.



Deputy Commissioner Bob Henningsen (far left) presided at the ceremony presenting the Governor's Award of Excellence for Workplace Safety and Health to Firestone Industrial Products.



Spotlight: Glenn Hensley

What is the nicest thing someone has ever done for you?

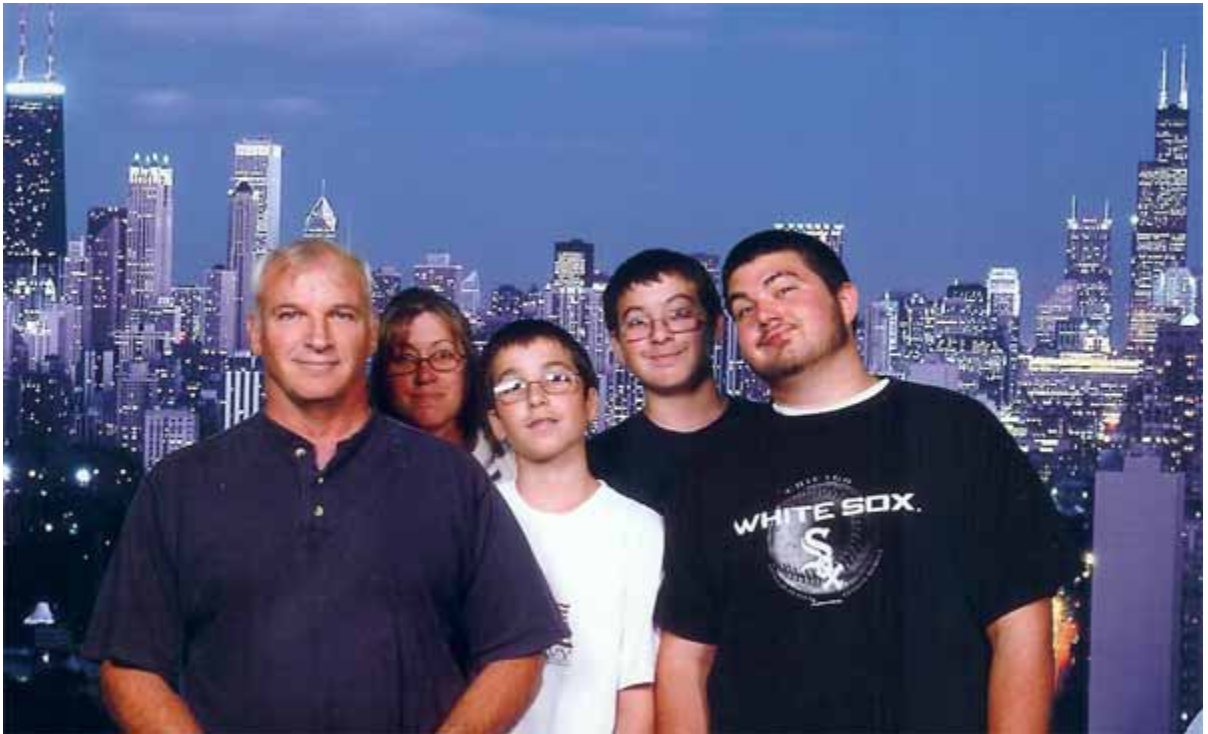
Cindy Allen married me and gave me three sons (after the ceremony).

What would people be surprised to know about you?

I am the former mayor, former fire chief, and former parks and recreation director of a major Tennessee municipality, Garland (population 313).

How long have you worked for the state of Tennessee, and what do you like best about your job?

I've worked for TOSHA for 25 and one-half years. The best part of the job is the variety. TOSHA inspectors evaluate hazards in most any type of workplace in the state, including industrial facilities, medical facilities, sawmills, construction sites, chemical plants, office buildings, etc. We are privileged to work with the entire spectrum of workers, from top management to technical professionals to skilled artisans to laborers of all sorts. Any time the phone rings, it can send you on another adventure.



Glenn Hensley is pictured with his family in Chicago last summer. From left are Glenn, wife Cindy, and sons Beau, Robert, and Dan.

What is the biggest issue in state government that affects your life?

I think that the quality of education of our youth is one of the most important issues for the future of Tennessee. It affects Tennessee's workforce development, economy, and quality of life for all Tennesseans. The high state sales tax, however, becomes a significant issue whenever I'm in the checkout line for groceries, clothes, and other necessities.

What's in the top drawer of your desk?

Top desk drawer . . . work stuff and catsup.

Note: Glenn is a TOSHA industrial hygienist in Memphis.



Members of the Source Advisory Committee are pictured prior to taking a tour of the Smyrna Nissan plant.

Source Advisory Committee meets at Nissan

Nissan officials spoke highly of TDLWD staff in a meeting June 16 of the Source Advisory Committee, which took place at the Nissan plant in Smyrna. The committee –made up of individuals with the TDLWD, staff from WIA partners and other state agencies and partners, and employers – was established by the TDLWD to assist in improvement and promotion of “The Source,” the department’s Internet site for labor market information.

“The three Nissan representatives who addressed our group made a point of expressing Nissan’s appreciation for the exceptional level of service that has been provided over the years by Herb Lee and the staff of the Murfreesboro Career Center,” said Mark Chandler, director for Field Operations. “We were told that the Smyrna plant currently has more than 6,800 Nissan employees, and each of these individuals was referred by the Murfreesboro office.”

Nissan recently announced its plans to build a new hybrid model at the Smyrna plant. The TDLWD

hopes to assist in the hiring needs when called upon. With the addition in 1997 of the Decherd powertrain assembly plant, Nissan has invested nearly \$2.8 billion in its two Tennessee facilities and is now a hub in the U.S. auto business.

TDLWD members of the Source Advisory Committee are **Mark Chandler**, Field Operations; **Joan Craig**, Employment and Training; **John Crawford**, Marketing; **Linda Davis**, Labor Market Information; **Ron Hammontree**, Marketing; **Kevin Hedges**, Labor Market Information; **Terry Hiers**, Middle Tennessee Career Center; **Martha Wettemann**, Labor Market Information; **Phil White**, Adult Education; **Melinda Williams**, Employment and Training; and **Don Woodlee**, Veterans’ Outreach.

Nissan Smyrna facts

Smyrna plant was

Nissan’s first U.S. manufacturing facility and Tennessee’s first automotive manufacturing plant

Investment: \$2.1 billion

Facility: 5.4 million square feet

Property: 884 acres

Production start: June 1983

Capacity: 550,000 vehicles annually

Produced at Smyrna

plant: Altima mid-size sedan, Frontier mid-size pickup truck, Maxima sports sedan, Xterra compact SUV, and Pathfinder mid-size SUV

Tidbits:

1,000 robots in facility with the majority in the body assembly plant

40 presses in stamping plant, including 5,200-ton cross bar transfer press

Annual payroll in Tennessee including benefit costs is more than \$750 million

Concrete construction used in Smyrna plant construction could build a road 10 feet wide and four inches thick from Nashville to Memphis and then some – about 240 miles



Commissioner Neeley recognizes the service of Clyde R. Caldwell, Jr., at his retirement from the Board of Boiler Rules in June.

Clyde Caldwell retires from Board of Boiler Rules

Clyde R. Caldwell, member of the state Board of Boiler Rules for 18 years who served under three governors, announced his retirement effective at the conclusion of the board meeting on June 8, 2005.

"I have served with the very best talent in the boiler and pressure vessel industry," Clyde wrote. "It has been an honor to serve with these gentlemen. My father, who preceded me as a member of the board, told me many times how honored he was to serve. I fully understand his sentiment."

Clyde's father was a founding member of the Tennessee Board of Boiler Rules and had 23 years of board service. Clyde Jr., appointed by Governor Ned McWherter, served 18 years.

"I thank all of the Boiler Division staff, past and present

chief inspectors, and field inspectors for the excellent work they do. Tennessee enjoys national recognition for the quality and talent of our Boiler Division"

Boiler staff views on-site inspection process

Boiler Division office staff members accompanied Assistant Boiler Chief **Eslie Rogers** and Deputy Boiler Inspector **Sam Chapman** during the biennial inspection of pressure vessels located at Tennessee Cook Chill. Office staff members experienced a close-up view of the inspection process and procedures.

"This visit also provided an opportunity for office personnel to get a firsthand grasp and understanding of what occurs during an inspection prior to paperwork being submitted to the office for processing," said **Deborah Rhone**, Boiler office supervisor. Other office staff members are **Mildred Brown**, **Karen Rankins**, **Betty Sykes** and **Vickie Christmon**.

(Continued on page 6)



Boiler Division office staff observe a boiler inspector's duties.



Pictured at the International IAWP Conference in Albuquerque are (from left) Maureen Abbey, J.R. Vaughn, Joan Dowlen, Jan Cheek, Harold Moore, Carolyn Moore, Richard Vaughn, and Sarah Stanley.

Eight attend 92nd International Conference

By Joan Dowlen

The clearest skies you have ever seen were overhead the entire week of June 5 – 10 as the 92nd International IAWP Conference got underway in Albuquerque, New Mexico! Eight members of the Tennessee Chapter convened with approximately 480 other IAWP members from across the U.S. and seven foreign countries.

There were many excellent General Sessions and workshops to choose from! They included panel discussions about Central America and Mexican Migration into the United States, Workforce Issues in Native American Communities, UI, Veterans' Priority in WIA, Safety Compliances, Workers' Comp, and Wage and Hour Laws. Some lighter workshops included Habits of Highly Horrible Networkers by keynote speaker

Scott Ginsburg, the New Mexico Forensic Science and Crime Lab, Ethics in the Workplace, Equal Career Survival, and Using Humor for a Change by another keynote speaker, Scott Friedman. A highlight was the Workforce Partner Panels that included Joseph Juarez, Regional Director for ETA New Mexico; Paul Mendez, Executive Director of NAWDP; Fernando Lecuona III, President of NASWA; and IAWP President George Barthalow. The panel was moderated by New Mexico's Secretary of Labor, Conroy Chino.

The New Mexico IAWP Chapter were excellent hosts! We sampled their culture through Native American and Mexican dance, song and food. In our spare time, some of our delegation shopped in Santa Fe and Old Towne, took a 5 A.M. balloon ride and rode the tram up the Sandia Mountains.

Gaynelle Wilson honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

Tennessee came home with several membership awards and a Lifetime Achievement Recognition honoring **Gaynelle Wilson**, who died in August 2003. Gaynelle was remembered for achievements during the 37 years she belonged to the IAWP organization. In 1981 the United States Department of Labor chose Gaynelle to assist Israel's Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs in setting up a training program for employment counselors in that country. She held numerous offices on the state IAWP level and won many awards. Members from Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama elected her District VIII representative to the International organization in 1998. Gaynelle took all the tests of the Professional Development Program (PDP), and in 1999 was the second person in Tennessee to be awarded the PDP Master status.

Longtime friend and co-worker **Mary Sturdivant** said that at Gaynelle's memorial service, a fellow choir member said she liked to sit next to Gaynelle because she was always on pitch and in rhythm. "That is a good way to describe Gaynelle's life – on pitch and in rhythm," said Mary.

This was an excellent conference – a time for learning, culture, and sharing. We all consider it an honor to have represented Tennessee! The conference ended Thursday evening with a banquet and ball. Employment Security Administrator Don Ingram, in Albuquerque to attend an NASWA Board meeting, joined the group Thursday and Friday.

Boilers (Cont.)

Currently, there are approximately 65,000 boilers and pressure vessels across the State requiring inspections biannually and biennially. **Martin Toth** serves as chief boiler inspector and **Gary Cookston** as director of the division.

Employee commendation

To: **Ann Reasons,**
Humboldt TDLWD
From: A claimant

"I wanted to express my appreciation to you and your staff for assisting me with filing my claim for unemployment yesterday. I have never been through this process before, and everyone was extremely helpful, explaining the process and answering my questions.

I appreciate your assistance in getting my claim filed so swiftly and so efficiently. I am sure you (and the staff) answer these questions many times each day, but everyone took the time to fully explain this process to me and did not make me feel rushed or as if I were "just another claim."

Teamwork News



Department of Labor &
Workforce Development;
February 2001; authorization no. 337287.

Phil Bredeesen
Governor

James G. Neeley
Commissioner

Milissa Reiersen
Communications
Director

Martha Deacon
Publications Editor

Workers' Comp celebrates new home



*The Benefit Review Section of the Workers' Compensation Division had an open house June 17 to show off their new office in Metro Center. Pictured are Workers' Comp Administrator **Sue Ann Head**, Commissioner **Neeley**, and **Teresa Bullington**, director of Benefit Review.*



*Among many attending the event were **Robert Durham** and **Henry Tupis**, both Benefit Review Cookeville, and **Angela Sparkman**, Benefit Review Nashville.*